

Clinical Laboratory Update

December 2020

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From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

MHDL reflects on 2020 highlights

As we begin 2021, MHDL is reflecting on our accomplishments over the past year. In the midst of COVID-19 response, we were able to maintain and expand services and balance other priorities throughout 2020, most notably including:

- Supported planning for Democratic National Convention (DNC)
- Completed regulatory inspections for American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP) and WI Dept of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
- Served over 90 partners, more than 40% of which were new partners
- Maintained community soil screening program, performing lead screening and/or nutrient analysis on >70 samples
- Produced a [MHDL overview video](#) and [COVID video](#)

Wishing all of our partners a happy and healthy new year!

MHDL accepts patient-collected swabs

MHDL now accepts patient-collected vaginal, penile meatal, rectal, and throat swabs for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) culture and antibiotic susceptibility testing, along with patient-collected vaginal swabs for nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) for STIs including GC as well as *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT), *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV), and *Mycoplasma genitalium* (MG). Specimens must be collected in a clinical setting (not for at home collections).

MHDL closed for MLK Day

MHDL will be closed Monday, January 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We will return to normal business hours on Tuesday, January 19. COVID specimens can still be dropped off on the holiday and over the weekend following [after-hours drop-offs instructions](#).

Data for COVID-19 testing performed at MHDL during the month of December is included as a supplement to this report.

Links to related information & data:

[MHDL COVID-19 Testing website](#)

[MHD COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

Sexually Transmitted Infections

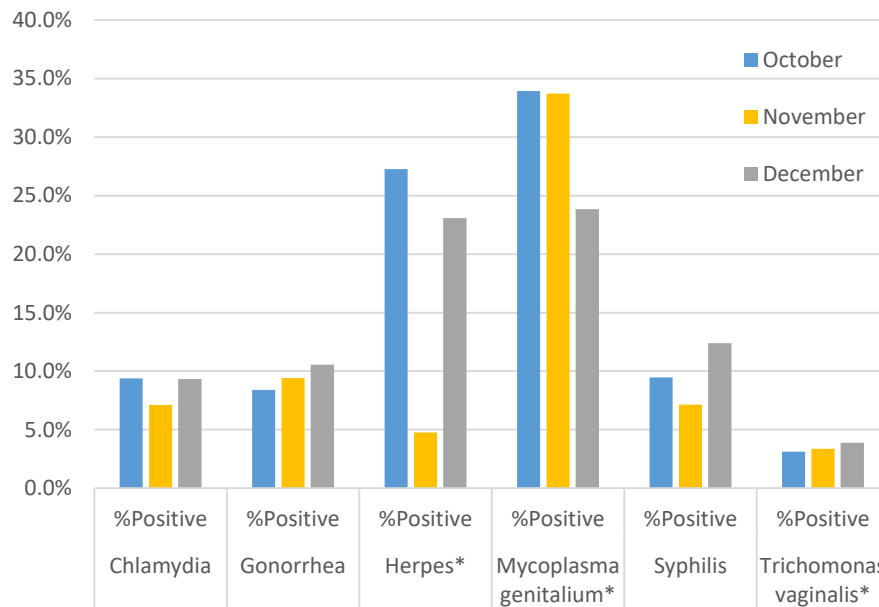


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

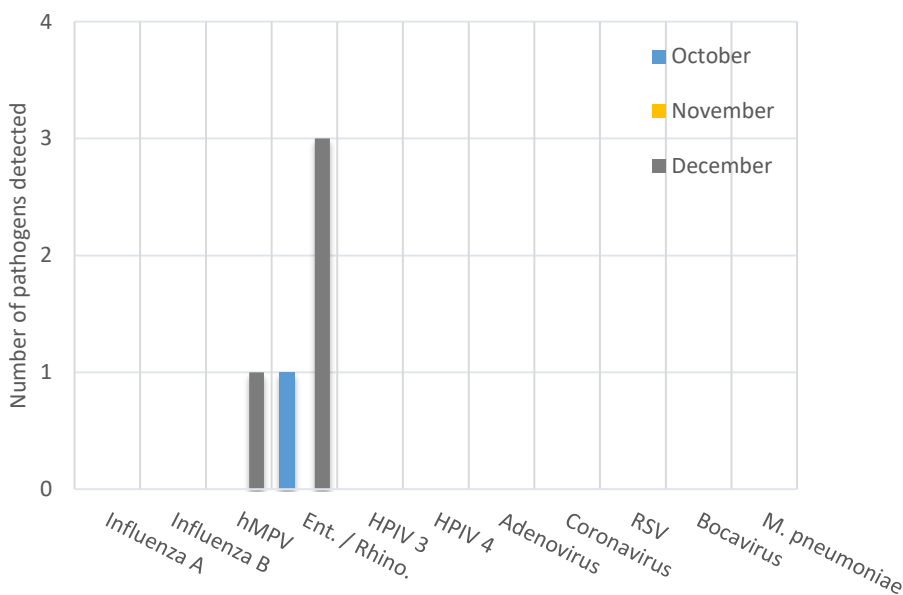


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:



New HIV Infections

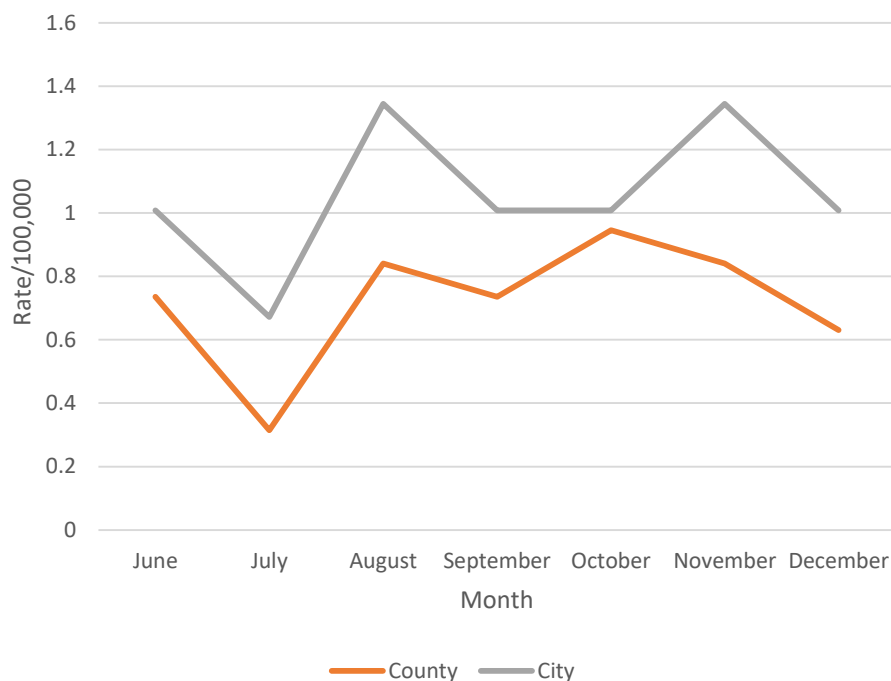


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, using data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Numbers are provisional and subject to change.

For statewide HIV data, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>

Syphilis Surveillance

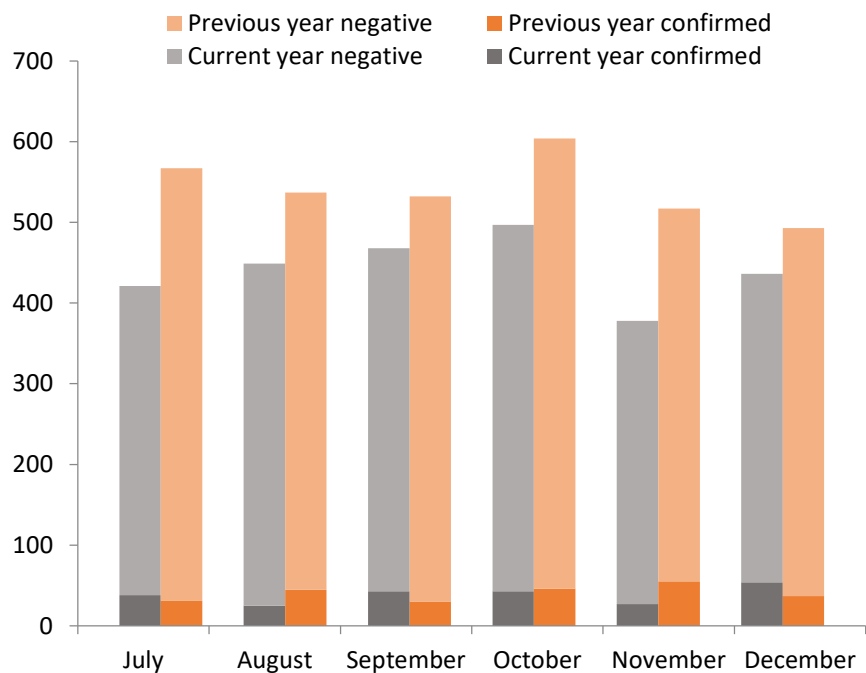


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHD, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

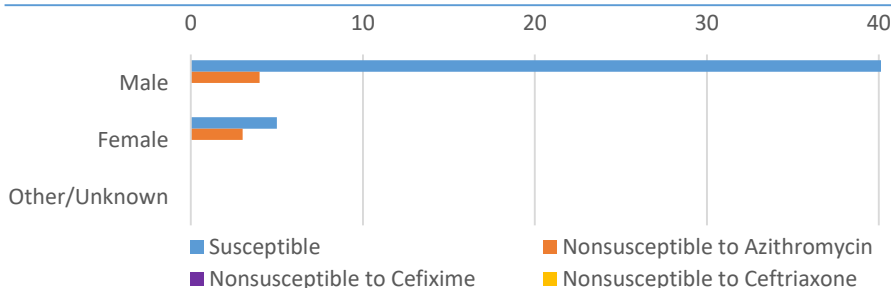


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In December 2020, 7 of 56 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHD tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

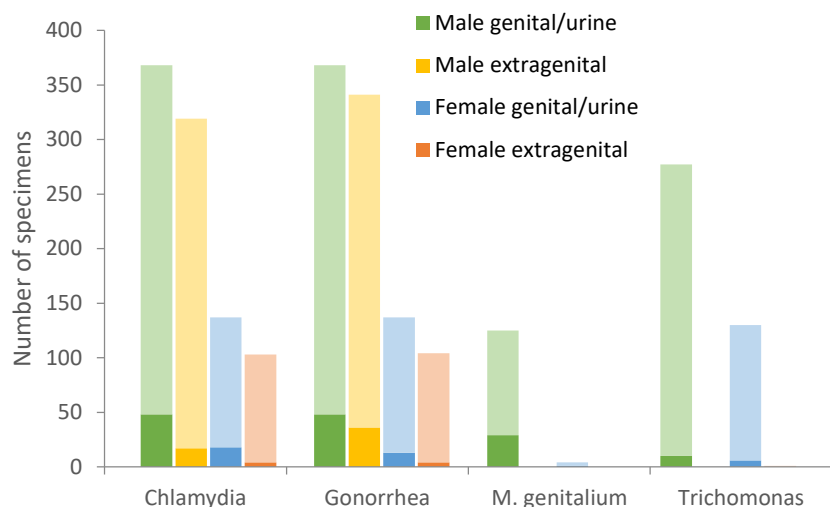


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In December 2020, 9.5% of male and 9.2% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 11.8% of male and 7.1% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 23.2% of male and 1 of the 4 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 3.6% of male specimens and 4.6% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral Surveillance

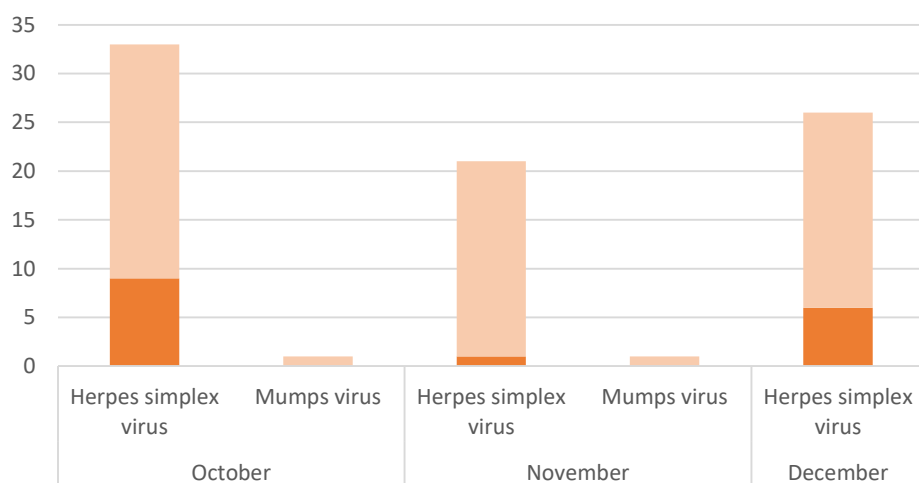


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

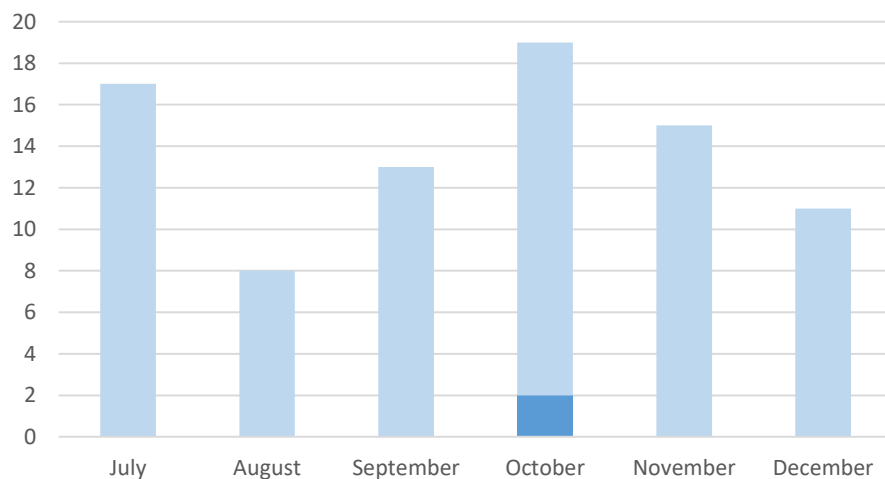


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

*Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed *Legionella pneumophila* by culture and/or real-time PCR.*